



CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A link to an informational page on coronavirus in Virginia has been established on the City's webpage: <https://www.martinsville-va.gov/>.

Both Governor Northam and President Trump have proclaimed state and national emergencies. Restaurants and bars are restricted to take-out and delivery service. Persons over age 65 are directed to self-quarantine. Gatherings of over TEN people are prohibited.

City public safety personnel: Police, Sheriff, Fire and EMS, are authorized to enforce these restrictions.

On March 17, Mayor Kathy Lawson declared a local emergency, enabling the City to marshal all available resources and efforts to combat the pandemic.

Governor Northam has ordered all K-12 public schools closed through the end of this school year. For detailed information concerning Martinsville City Public Schools, including instruction-at-home, please visit <https://www.martinsville.k12.va.us/>.

The Supreme Court of Virginia has limited operation of Virginia's state and local courts: http://www.courts.state.va.us/2020_0316_scv_order_declaration_of_judicial_emergency.pdf

The City of Martinsville has cancelled all events through April 26, which include:

- **City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 24**
- **All budget work sessions, which will be rescheduled**
- **Parks & Recreation Events and Rentals, although City parks remain open to the public**
- **Martinsville Fire-EMS tours/events/public visitors/ smoke alarm and car seat installations**
- **Martinsville Police tours/events and Neighborhood Watch meetings**
- **No new special event permits will be issued**

BY COURT ORDER, ALL PERSONS COMING TO COURT WILL BE SCREENED FOR FEVER, AND ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS REGARDING TRAVEL AND ANY HEALTH SYMPTOMS. ONLY ESSENTIAL OR EMERGENCY COURT ACTIONS ARE BEING ALLOWED.

Other than Court, City Hall is closed to the public effective Wednesday, March 25. To the greatest extent possible, citizens should utilize online resources for payments, permit applications, and for any other purpose where online service is available. This advice applies to City transactions and private commercial transactions as well.

Persons still needing to make direct payments or applications at City Hall may use the following methods:

All tax and billing payments: please use online payments, drive thru window, or dropbox

Utility service connections: call (276)403-5146 or email utilitybilling@ci.martinsville.va.us

Building permit or other permit applications: call (276) 403-5173

Building Inspection Requests: call (276) 403-5365

All essential City services: Police, Fire and EMS protection, trash collection, and utility services remain in operation but are not open to the public.

The City will not cut off any delinquent utility accounts until May 18. Utility bills remain due, however, and charges for late payments apply.

DO NOT CALL FOR 911 FOR NON-EMERGENCY PURPOSES. Contact your primary care provider or use available telemedicine resources as the first line of defense. If presenting COVID-19-like symptoms (fever, cough shortness of breath), calling 911 may result in a recommendation for self-care at home.

REMINDER: Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) can include fever, cough, shortness of breath (symptoms may appear 2- 14 days after exposure.) If you are experiencing life-threatening symptoms or are having an emergency, please call 9-1-1 and answer all questions as prompted. For non-emergency questions concerning Coronavirus, contact the Health Department at (276) 638-2311

TIPS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw tissue in the trash.